

Reno District Newsletter

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Reno Sparks Indian Colony Conducts Holiday Checkpoint

By Becky Hunkup



Patricia Kelhoyoma, Community Health Representative, Duane Gardipe, Injury Prevention Coalition Member, and Becky Hunkup, Injury Prevention Coordinator, assist with the Hungry Valley checkpoint.

Decreasing drinking and driving during the holidays and increasing seat belt usage were the goals of Reno-Sparks Indian Colony's "Safe Driving for the Holidays" DUI/Child Car Seat Checkpoint.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony held a DUI/Child Car Seat Checkpoint on December 12, 2003, in the community of Hungry Valley, NV. The checkpoint was held from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the cold weather.

Was Reno-Sparks Indian Colony driving safe during the holidays? Yes. Eighty-six (86) cars came through the checkpoint and two (2) community people were caught not buckled up (a driver and his passenger). They were issued seat belt citations and given information on the tribal Court Diversion Program. In spite of the cold weather, two parents opted to have their child car seats inspected for proper installation. These child car seats were inspected and replaced. No citations were given for DUI. Overall, this was a successful event.

This was a joint effort of Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Police, Injury Prevention Program, and the tribal clinic's Drug & Alcohol Department.

Pyramid Lake Housing Smoke Detector Project

By Andrea Horn

The Pyramid Lake Housing Authority is located on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation, approximately 30 miles northeast of Reno, Nevada. This reservation is the largest in the state of Nevada and encompasses 475,000 acres. The Pyramid Lake Tribal Council established the housing authority for the purpose of providing decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing to Tribal residents.

After the housing authority completed home inspections in April 2003, it was discovered that there was a need for smoke detectors in 15 homes. The majority of these homes were built in 1966, had elderly occupants, and did not have even one working smoke detector. Because of these findings, the Pyramid Lake Housing Authority applied for funding of 12 photoelectric smoke detectors and for 3 smoke detectors for the hearing-impaired through the Indian Health Service Injury Prevention Mini Grant.

IHS approved the grant activities because the project recognized groups with high risk of fire injury and death (elders and the hearing impaired) and the installation of photoelectric smoke alarms is a highly recommended and effective strategy to reduce residential fire related injury for both of these groups.

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By Holly Billie

In the Spotlight: Gina Locklear

The Reno District Office of Environmental Health welcomes Gina Locklear back to the IHS Phoenix Area. Gina served as the Service Unit Environmental Health Officer (EHO) in the Eastern District, Keams Canyon, AZ, from 1992-1999, and now returns to the Area as the Reno District EHO. What brought Gina to Reno? "I came to Reno to work again with people from Phoenix Area and to work with tribes in the Reno District".

Gina will be responsible for managing the Reno District Environmental Health Program as well as providing direct services to the Pyramid Lake Paiute and Walker River Paiute Tribes. Gina has been in this position since August 2003 and she has been well-received by the tribes and by staff. She comes with a wealth of experience in environmental health and injury prevention.

Raised in Pembroke, North Carolina, Gina is a member of the Lumbee Tribe. In her spare time she enjoys eating Mexican food, quilting, and reading novels by Leo Tolstoy, Emily Bronte, and Conan Doyle. One day she'd like to own her own motorcycle and try snowmobiling and river rafting while living here in Nevada.

In 1986 Gina began her career with IHS in the Commissioned Officer Student Extern Program (COSTEP) in Rhinelander, WI. After graduating with a degree in



Environmental Health from East Carolina University she accepted an assignment as the Field Sanitarian in Whiteriver, AZ. After 5 years in Whiteriver Gina worked as the Service Unit Sanitarian in Keams Canyon and then in Souix City, IA, as the District Environmental Health Officer.

When asked what goals she had for the Reno District, Gina replied, "I'd like for the tribes to know who we are as staff, as a program and what services we offer. I'd like to see some of our services expanded such as food code development with the tribes, and to provide the best possible services to the tribes." Other goals include staff development and team-building.

Gina is known for her excellent rapport with co-workers and tribes. With her excellent technical, managerial and people skills there is no doubt that these goals will be accomplished. Welcome to Reno, Gina!



Reno District Safety Officer Course

By Andrea Horn



The annual Reno District Safety Officer Course will be offered to safety officers and facility managers at healthcare clinics in the Elko, Schurz, Owens Valley, and U & O service units on June 3-4, 2004. The course will be held at the Fallon Tribal Health Center

and will cover everything from Infection Control, Fire Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Ergonomics, Safety Management, and many more safety related topics specific to health care clinics. Hands-on activities will also be part of the training. Phoenix Area Institutional Environmental Health Officers along with the Reno District Environmental Health staff will be the presenters for the course. If you are interested in attending, please contact Andrea Horn, Environmental Health Officer, Indian Health Service, at 775-784-5327.

HACCP

By Gina Locklear



What is HACCP?

Is it a bird? NO!

Is it a plane? NO!

Is it a new fangled computer program?
NO!

Well, what is it?

HACCP stands for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point. It's an active managerial control system for preventing foodborne disease risk factors. In every day terms, HACCP is a set of concepts when applied in a food service establishment can reduce the potential for foodborne illness or injury. The concept has been around for a while in the food industry, but has under-

gone several changes. Why should I be interested? Well, each year CDC estimates that 76 million Americans get sick, more than 325,000 are hospitalized, and 5,200 people die from foodborne illnesses. So, HACCP is an important tool for the prevention of illness and death.

On December 10th and 11th, HACCP training was provided to 52 Tribal and IHS staff within the Phoenix and Tucson Areas by Mr. John Marcello of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Attendees included staff from numerous tribal casinos and resorts through the state of Arizona and Owens Valley, school districts, elderly services programs and of course IHS. Mr. John Marcello was a great instructor who brought insightful information and enthusiasm to the course. Participants were provided with the opportunity to apply HACCP concepts in real situations and share their results. Of particular importance was the fact that this course provided an opportunity for environmental health staff and food industry folks to work together and develop solutions to food service problems using HACCP principles.



Frank Wilson, Food and Beverage Manager, Paiute Palace Casino of Bishop, CA, makes a presentation at the HACCP training course.

Yellowstone Tank Installation

By Gina Locklear

Have you seen several very large tanks rolling down the highway near Ft. Duchesne and wondered where they were headed? If so, I can let you in on a secret. They were headed for the Yellowstone community on the Uin-tah and Ouray Reservation. Currently, sewer services for the twenty or so homes in the Yellowstone area is pro-

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Congratulations to the CPS Workgroup

By Gina Locklear



The IHS sponsored Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Workgroup will be honored February 13, 2004 by Phoenix Area IHS during the Annual Area Awards Ceremony. The workgroup will be awarded the Phoenix Area Exceptional Performance Award for the development and implementation of the Safe Native American Passengers (SNAP) Course.

The award acknowledges the promotion of initiative, accomplishment, and accountability for action that increases the overall effectiveness of the Phoenix Area. The workgroup demonstrated what it takes to get a job done - teamwork, cooperation, mutual trust, and cohesiveness. Their goal was to develop a 1-day culturally appropriate child passenger safety course for tribal audiences that would complement the national 4-day CPS Course.

It was a tall order... But for John Weaver, IHS Aberdeen Area Injury Prevention Specialist; Vincent Slayton-Garcia, IHS Phoenix Western District Environmental Health Officer; Myla Jensen, Injury Prevention Coordinator for California Rural Indian Health Board, Norma Bowman, Project Coordinator for Navajo Department of Highway Safety, Tomi St. Mars, Injury Prevention Coordinator for the Desert Samaritan Medical Center, and Holly Billie, IHS Injury Prevention Coordinator for the Reno District, it was not insurmountable.

The course book has been completed, pilot tested and is now available for CPS Technicians nationwide to use. It is a wonderful resource that enables participants to understand child restraint systems, identify recalls, recognize and correct misuse, explain the local restraint law, recommend age-appropriate seats, educate parents on the importance of child safety seat use, and act as a checker at child safety seat clinics. Once again, congratulations CPS workgroup for a job VERY WELL done!



Farewell to Debi Meek

By Holly Billie



After three and a half years of service to the Elko Service Unit as the Environmental Health Officer, Debi Meek is moving on. Debi recently accepted a job as the Safety Officer at the Souix San Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Originally from Canado, AZ, Debi has worked for IHS since 1992 in Tuba City, AZ, Spokane, WA, and Rosebud, SD. Before her IHS career Debi worked for the Department of Defense in the Life Sciences Division, Immunology and Aerosol Biology Departments. She conducted research on biological defense and chemical warfare exposure decontamination for soldiers.

While in Elko Debi accomplished a lot while focusing on prevention efforts such as seatbelt and car seat use, smoke detector installation, and bicycle helmet use. She assisted the tribes in the Elko Service Unit address environmental health issues relating to water quality, vector control, food service and healthful housing. When asked about her greatest accomplishments Debi replied, "Working with the Tribes to organize spay and neuter clinics in their local communities was challenging but very satisfying. Now tribes are taking the lead to bring these services back to their communities." Debi also stated that working with the Elko Head Start to increase car seat use among Head Start students was an accomplishment for all involved.

When not at work Debi enjoys spending time with her family; husband, Tim, and daughters, Christine and Tina Marie. Debi also likes to read John Grisham novels.

The staff of Reno District appreciates all that Debi contributed to the Environmental Health Program

Farewell

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while in Elko. The local tribes benefited from her willingness to respond to their environmental health needs. Her pleasant personality, hard work, positive attitude, and good ideas will be missed by the Reno District Staff. We wish her all the best in her personal and professional pursuits.

Pyramid Lake Project

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The installation of the smoke detectors was completed in October 2003 by the housing authority at no cost to the homeowner. Photoelectric smoke detectors were utilized because they are less prone to nuisance alarms and were also purchased with the 10-year lithium battery. The hearing-impaired smoke detectors come with light-assisted warning devices. A progress report including follow-up assessments of the smoke detectors are part of the accepted grant proposal.

Jackie Mix, Development Coordinator for the Pyramid Lake Housing Authority, stated that the homeowners were very appreciative and there was positive reaction to the installation of the smoke detectors in the homes. For further information about IHS Injury Prevention Mini Grants contact the Reno District Office at 775-784-5327. A big thank you is also addressed to all those who made this project a big success!



Jackie Mix, Pyramid Lake Housing Authority, installs smoke detectors.

Training Opportunities in Environmental Health

By Gina Locklear

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Reno District Safety Officer Course	June 3-4, 2004	Fallon, NV	Andrea Horn Schurz EHO	(775) 784-5327 ext. 235
Pumps and Pumping System Operation and Repair	April 13-15, 2004	Kotzebue, AK	Gina Locklear District EHO	(775) 784-5327 ext. 237
Electrical Controls for Utility Operators	April 13-15, 2004	Farmington, NM	Gina Locklear District EHO	(775) 784-5327 ext. 237
Healthcare Incident Command System	April 19-21, 2004	Oklahoma City, OK	Gina Locklear District EHO	775) 784-5327 ext. 237
Advanced Course for Safety Officers	April 26-30, 2004	Phoenix, AZ	Gina Locklear District EHO	775) 784-5327 ext. 237
Introduction to GPS Surveying	April 26-30, 2004	Albuquerque, NM	Gina Locklear District EHO	775) 784-5327 ext. 237
Intentional Violence Prevention	April 5-9, 2004	Albuquerque, NM	Holly Billie District IP Coordinator	(775) 784-5327 ext. 236
Introduction to Injury Prevention	May 3-7, 2004	Phoenix, AZ	Holly Billie District IP Coordinator	(775) 784-5327 ext. 236
Advanced Injury Prevention	February 10-13, 2004	Phoenix, AZ	Holly Billie District IP Coordinator	(775) 784-5327 ext. 236

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Yellowstone Tank Installation

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B&G Crane Service of Altamont, UT, sets the middle piece of the 4,000 gallon community septic tank which will serve the Yellowstone Community on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation in Utah.

vided by a 2 cell lagoon system. This system had been identified as needing replacement. As a result, a sewer project funded by EPA and IHS was born.

In early December, preparation of the area and installation of the 3 septic tanks began. The tanks are connected in series starting with a 6,000 gallon tank followed by a 4,000 gallon one and ending with a 1,000 gallon tank. Effluent will flow through each tank and will eventually be pumped into the Ft. Duchesne Community Sewer System. Mr. James Begeman, IHS Environmental Engineer, is overseeing the much needed project and expects the system to be functional at the end of the February.

